WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of controlling a back light of a display device; said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one display setting data group including a message to be displayed on said display device and a control command for switching on and off said back light; and

specifying a parameter in a display command addressed to said display device, thereby selectively specifying one of said at least one display setting data group, wherein said back light is switched on and off according to the control command included in the specified display setting data group.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said display command is a command to display as said message a specified data item described in a user program of a programmable controller.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said control command controls switching on and off of said back light, said control command causing said back light to be switched on and then switched off after a specified time length has elapsed.

4.   A method of controlling a back light of a display device; said method comprising the steps of:

providing a control command for switching on and off said back light and a message to be displayed on said display device to a display command addressed to said display device; and

controlling switching on and off of said back light according to said control command provided to said display command.

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5.   The method of claim 4 wherein said display command is a command to display as said message a specified data item described in a user program of a programmable controller.

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6.   The method of claim 4 wherein said control command controls switching on and off of said back light, said control command causing said back light to be switched on and then switched off after a specified time length has elapsed.

10   7.   A display device having a back light, said display device being provided with at least one display setting data group including a message to be displayed on said display device and a control command for switching on and off said back light, said display device comprising:

an extracting means for selectively specifying one of said at least one display

15   setting data group by a parameter and extracting a control command from the specified display setting data group, said parameter being included in a display command addressed to said display device and serving to selectively specifying said specified display setting data group; and

a control means for controlling switching on and off of said back light according

20   to said control command extracted by said extracting means.

8.   The display device of claim 7 wherein said display command is a command to display as said message a specified data item described in a user program of a programmable controller.

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9.   The display device of claim 7 wherein said control command controls switching on and off of said back light, said control command causing said back light to be switched on and then switched off after a specified time length has elapsed.

5   10.   A display device having a back light, said display device comprising:

an extracting means for extracting from a display command addressed to said display device a control command for switching on and off said back light, said display command including a message to be displayed on said display device and said control command; and

10   a control means for controlling switching on and off of said back light according to said control command extracted by said extracting means.

11.   The display device of claim 10 wherein said display command is a command to display as said message a specified data item described in a user program
15   of a programmable controller.

12.   The display device of claim 10 wherein said control command controls switching on and off of said back light, said control command causing said back light to be switched on and then switched off after a specified time length has elapsed.

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